

REMARKS**Summary of Office Action**

Claims 10-14, 17-23, and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Coleman (US, 6,259,536).

Claims 15, 16, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Coleman in view of Dermer et al. (US, 5,313,570).

Claims 10, 19, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly lacking antecedent basis.

Title of the Invention stands objected as allegedly being non descriptive.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 10, 19, 28 are amended to further define the invention. New claims 29, 30, and 31 are added. Claims 14 and 23 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-9 were cancelled previously. Accordingly, claims 10-13, 15-22, and 24-31 are presently pending for consideration.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 10, 19, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly lacking antecedent basis. Applicant amends claims 10, 19, and 28 to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the features recited in each of the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of claims 10, 19, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Objection to Title of the Invention

Title of the Invention stands objected as allegedly being non descriptive. Applicant amends title of the invention, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that objection to the Title of the Invention be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-14, 17-23, and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Coleman (US, 6,259,536). Claims 15, 16, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Coleman in view of Dermer et al. (US, 5,313,570). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and the Office Action's interpretation of the applied references at least for the following reasons.

With respect to independent claim 10, as amended, Applicant asserts that none of the cited references whether taken singly or combined, teach or suggest at least the features of "a receiving part that receives image data including a color object and a black object, the color object constituting a background of the black object; determining part that determines a first amount which is an amount of a black material to be applied to a black area corresponding to the black object and a second amount which is amount of color materials to be applied to the black area, the determining part determining each of the first and second amounts based on density of the black object regardless of the color object."

In contrast to the Applicant's claimed invention, Coleman et al. teaches a digital color printing method and system that automatically determines a mixture of colorants to compose a process black color (Abstract). Specifically, the digital printing method and system of Coleman et al. is to perform automatic detection "when a black object is commanded to be printed, and

changes the composition of the black color depending on the presence or absence of non-black colorants in the background color at the position on the page at which the black object is commanded to be printed (col. 3, lines 1-6).” In other words, Coleman et al. implements an image processing method that selectively removes certain sets of image object from undergoing the additional image processes to form the output image data (col. 6, line 28 to col. 7, line 33, and FIG. 10). For example, as shown in FIG. 10, the image processing step S410 is a decision making process that selectively bypasses the image object made of non-black colorants from the additional image analysis. If Coleman et al. detects an input image object composed of non-black colorants, this image object will be sent to the step S460 bypassing the steps S420 to S460 in FIG. 10. In the present invention, however, an image processing device does not selectively remove any image objects from undergoing further image analysis.

As pointed out in MPEP §2131, “[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.” Thus, “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that since the digital printing method and system of Coleman et al. does not include the above-discussed features, Coleman et al. fails to teach or suggest at least the features of independent claim 10, as amended. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention of claims 19 and 28 are distinguished over Coleman et al. for reasons similar to those presented above with respect to independent claim 10.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 10-14, 17-23, and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn since Coleman et al. fails to teach each and every element as

recited in independent claims 10, 19, and 28. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Dermer et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Coleman et al. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 11-13, 15-18, 20-22, 24-27, and 29-31 are allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above with regard to amended independent claims 10, 19, and 28 and upon which they respectfully depend, as well as the individual features of dependent claims 11-13, 15-18, 20-22, 24-27, and 29-31 recite.

New claims 29-31

Applicant has added new claims 29-31. Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 29-31 further define the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of newly added claims 29-31.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

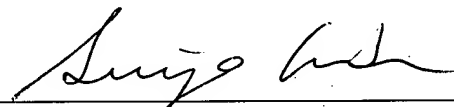
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully Submitted,

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